

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 72

Exhibit No. 1
Date 1/12/09
Bill No. SB 72

Greg Jergeson
Chairman, Montana Public Service Commission
January 12, 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 72 is requested by the Public Service Commission, The Commission seeks to amend the commission secretary provisions in Title 69 because the statutory requirement that the Commission appoint a secretary every two years to serve at the Commission's pleasure is obsolete and unnecessary. It may be that, in the early days of the Commission, the commission secretary served in a managerial role much like an executive director, but, if so, that role has long since changed. The modern-day commission secretary serves the commission in an administrative support role. There is no reason to single out this staff position for special treatment in the statute or to subject the employee to the uncertainties caused by the statutory requirements of being appointed every two years and serving at the pleasure of the commission. Similarly, it is unnecessary to specify in statute the duties of the commission secretary. The Commission should have the discretion to determine this employee's duties and responsibilities in the same way it has for its other employees.

The PSC recommends a DO PASS on Senate Bill 72.